

In the shadow of a Centennial: writing the history of IUPAC (1919-2019)

Friday, November 16, 2018

An International Meeting

Organized by the Groupe Histoire de la Chimie, Société Chimique de France (SCF)
under the patronage of the SCF, the CNRS, the CNC,
the IUPAC2019 Congress, the GHDSO, and the Science History Institute (Philadelphia)
Venue: SCF, 250 rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris



The IUPAC will celebrate its centennial in July 2019. On this occasion, we will remember the milestones of its history. To that end, we will rely on historical material, and draw on eyewitness accounts from members of the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Writing this history is a complex, and multifaceted task. The breadth of IUPAC's chronological, geographical and thematic scopes complicates this project. But it is necessary if we are to understand the reasons for its long-term existence, its actions, and its outcomes, without forgetting the men and women who devoted a great part of their life to this organisation.

At the request of IUPAC, Roger Fennell published a *History of IUPAC* in 1994, soon after to be completed by Stanley Brown in 2001. These are reference works to be consulted to gain a general overview on the first eighty years of IUPAC. Other significant parts of this history were published in periodicals, principally in the magazine of the IUPAC, *Chemistry International*, or in the *Journal Pure and Applied Chemistry*. While the Union's archives can be explored at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia, few historians of science have used this archival record.

The coming celebration is thus the occasion to devote a substantial amount of time in studying this scientific Union. This will be the aim of a panel of specialists and actors meeting in Paris on 16 November 2018.

This open symposium will be the opportunity to present the first studies on IUPAC, the scientific and general international context surrounding the Union, and to invite in the chemists who are celebrating the centennial of their scientific Union.

With the participation of

R. Brashear (IUPAC Archives, Science History Inst., Philadelphia, USA), **M. Chastrette** (past Pdt. CCE-IUPAC, Pr. Em. U-Lyon1, FR), **R. Fox** (Pr. Em. Hist. Sci., U-Oxford, UK), **Y. Kikuchi** (Nagoya U. of Economics, JP), **Y. Jeannin** (IUPAC past Pdt., Paris, FR), **G.J. Leigh** (past Pdt. IUPAC-CNIC, U-Sussex, UK), **R. Marquardt** (IUPAC Div-1, U. Strasbourg, France), **N. Moreau** (IUPAC past Pdt., Paris, FR), **C. Reinhardt** (Pr. Hist. Sci., U-Bielefeld, DE), **J. Smit** (U. Leiden, NL), **E. Zaitseva** (Pr. Hist. Chem., U-Moscow, RU), and on conference call: **F. Meyers** (IUPAC, Boston, USA), **E. Hepler-Smith** (Boston College Hist. Dpt., USA), **A. E. Robinson** (Harvard Library, Cambridge Mass., USA).

Organizers : **Danielle Fauque** (GHDSO, U-Paris Sud/Paris Saclay, FR)

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& **Brigitte Van Tiggelen** (Mémosciences, BE /UCL, Louvain, BE)

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No fees, but registration required (by 11 November if possible) to Danielle Fauque

http://www.societechimiquedefrance.fr/spip.php?page=news-entite&id_rubrique=147

<https://iupac.org/event/in-the-shadow-of-a-centennial/>

Programme

09.00. Welcome

09.30. Danielle Fauque: *Opening of the meeting*

Session 1- IUPAC, the weight of the past

Chair: Ron Brashear

09.45. Brigitte Van Tiggelen: *International meetings of chemistry and IACS: forerunners of IUPAC?*

10.00. Robert Fox: *Organizing Science after WWI: The place of IUPAC in the IRC*

10.15. Jorrit Smit: *Ernst Cohen, The third IUPAC President and the challenge of a true international Union* (provisional title)

10.35. **General discussion**

Session 2- IUPAC Commissions at work: case studies

Chair: Nicole Moreau

10.55. Jeffery Leigh: *A History of the IUPAC Commission for the Nomenclature of Inorganic Chemistry*

11.15. **Discussion**

11.25. Maurice Chastrette: *The Commission on teaching chemistry* (provisional title)

11.45. **Discussion**

11.55. Carsten Reinhardt: *Spectroscopy and NMR: IUPAC facing the new methods in chemistry*

12.15. **Discussion**

12.25. Contributions of Ann E. Robinson and Evan Hepler-Smith, presented by Brigitte Van Tiggelen

12h45-14h15: Free Lunch

Session 3 – IUPAC as a global organisation

Chair: Robert Fox

14.15. Danielle Fauque: *The turn of the sixties, some milestones*

14.25. Y. Kikuchi: *IUPAC and chemistry in East Asia*

14.45. **Discussion**

14.55. Elena Zaitseva (Baum): *To the history of the participation of Russian chemists in the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry*

15.15. **Discussion**

Session 4 - Writing the history of IUPAC – 1: Eyewitness accounts

15.25 Round table moderated by Brigitte Van Tiggelen

With the participation of Maurice Chastrette, Yves Jeannin, Fabienne Meyers, Nicole Moreau and Jeffery Leigh

16h05-16h25 Coffee break

Session 5 – Writing the history of IUPAC – 2: Historical records

Chair: Carsten Reinhardt

16.25. Ron Brashear: *IUPAC and its records/archives*

16.45. **Discussion**

Session 6 - From the past into the future: the case of the mole

Chair: Jeffery Leigh

16.55. Roberto Marquardt: *Counting atoms*

17.15. **Discussion**

17h25-17h45. Concluding remarks